

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SY-05 MCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02
A-01 USSS-00 MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ARAE-00 VO-03
/078 W

-----072012Z 107323 /47

P 071715Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2499
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARTINIQUE 0010

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PINS, CVIS, FW
SUBJECT: BURNETT-ALLEYNE TRIAL

REF: 76 MARTINIQUE 0504

1. THE LOCAL ATTORNEY GENERAL (PROCUREUR DE LA REPUBLIQUE) AND THE CHIEF OF THE LOCAL COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE OFFICE (DST) TOLD ME THEY THINK THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT BURNETT-ALLEYNE WILL MAKE ALLEGATIONS THAT HE IS CONNECTED WITH THE CIA IN HIS UPCOMING TRIAL. THEY STATED THAT DURING THE POLICE INVESTIGATION, BURNETT-ALLEYNE HAS REFRAINED FROM DECLARING UNDER OATH THAT HE IS OR WAS WITH THE CIA, AND HAS SO FAR LIMITED HIMSELF TO STATING THAT THE ARMS OPERATION WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT HIS ARREST HERE WAS BACKED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THAT MANY OF BURNETT'S STATEMENTS ARE CONTRADICTORY AND CONFUSING, SO MUCH SO THAT FRENCH POLICE REMAIN PUZZLED ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR. THE ONE ASPECT WHICH INTERESTS THE FRENCH IS THE FACT THAT THE OPERATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BACKED BY A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY. HOWEVER, THE INFRACTIONS AGAINST FRENCH LAWS FOR WHICH BURNETT-ALLEYNE WILL BE TRIED ARE NOT SERIOUS, AND THE TRIAL WILL NOT BE AN IMPORTANT ONE WHICH WILL ATTRACT MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION. THE TRIAL WILL, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPEFULLY, BE A LOW PROFILE ONE.

2. I BELIEVE THE INFORMATION FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE DST HEAD IS REASSURING ENOUGH SO THAT WE CAN ALMOST FORGET ABOUT THE CHANCES OF BURNETT-ALLEYNE MAKING A WILD ALLEGATION ABOUT HAVING CIA CONNECTIONS DURING HIS TRIAL. THIS JUDGMENT MAY, OF COURSE, PROVE WRONG, BUT IT NOW APPEARS THAT EVEN IF HE

CLAIMS CIA CONNECTIONS, HIS ALLEGATION WILL BE A WEAK ONE
WITHOUT REAL CREDIBILITY AND NOT LIKELY TO RESULT IN WIDESPREAD
PUBLICITY.

3. ON SEPARATE SUBJECT, WE EXPECT TO CANCEL BURNETT-ALLEYNE'S
VISA AS SOON AS HIS TRIAL, EXPECTED THIS OR NEXT WEEK, IS CON-
CLUDED.
SHACKLETON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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